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NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.

Technical information: (617) 565-2327 BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/new-england](http://www.bls.gov/regions/new-england)

Media contact: (617) 565-2326 BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

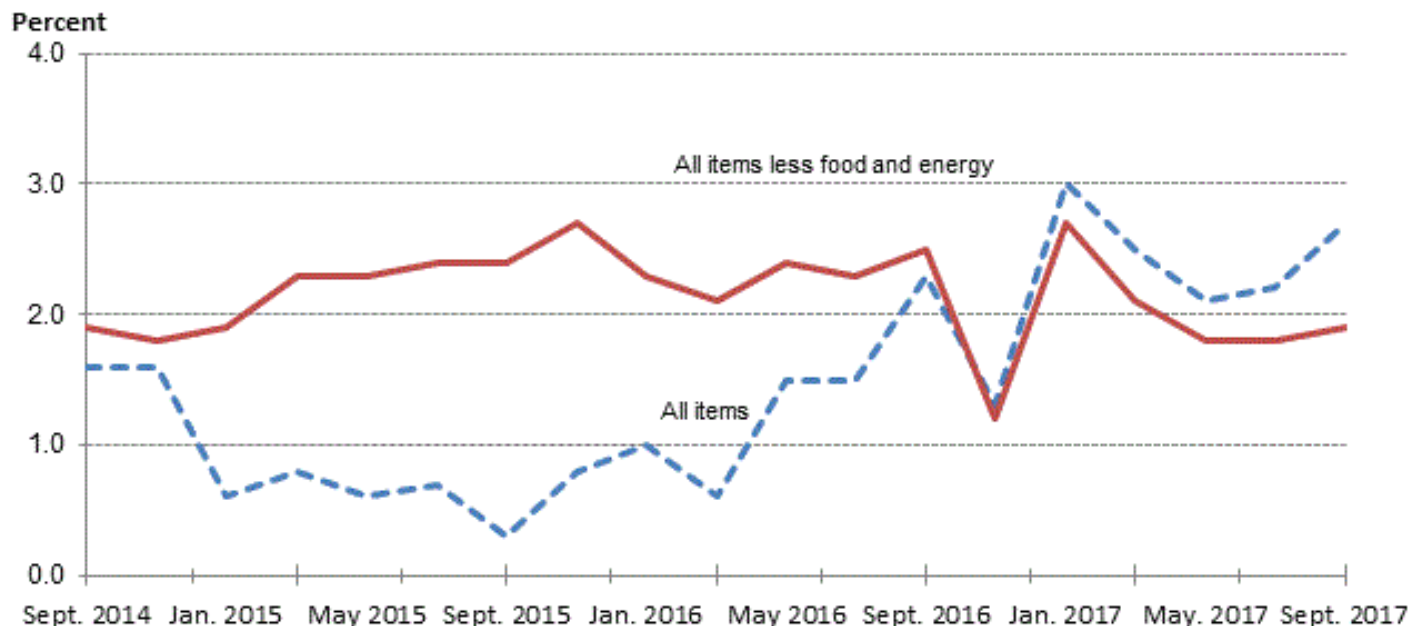
## Consumer Price Index, Boston-Brockton-Nashua — September 2017

### Area prices up 1.2 percent over two months; up 2.7 percent from a year ago

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Boston-Brockton-Nashua area rose 1.2 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that the two-month increase was mainly due to higher prices within all items less food and energy, up 0.9 percent and higher prices paid for energy prices, up 8.4 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bimonthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Boston CPI-U rose 2.7 percent. The increase was largely attributable to higher prices within all items less food and energy, up 1.9 percent (See [chart 1](#)). Higher energy prices paid by area consumers, up 15.3 percent also contributed to the increase.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, September 2014 - September 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food prices edged down 0.2 percent since July mainly due to lower grocery store or food at home prices, down 0.5 percent. Restaurant prices, or food away from home, up 0.1 percent, partially offset the decrease.

Food prices increased 1.4 percent over the year, mainly due to higher food at home prices, up 1.3 percent. Restaurant prices, or food away from home edged up, 1.5 percent, also contributing to the increase.

## **Energy**

The energy index increased 8.4 percent over the two months, mainly driven by higher gasoline prices, up 18.5 percent.

Energy prices were up 15.3 percent from a year ago, largely attributable to higher gasoline prices, up 25.7 percent. To a lesser extent, higher prices for electricity, up 9.3 percent, also contributed to the overall increase.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy edged up from July (0.9 percent). The increase was mainly attributable to shelter up 1.2 percent. The increase within the shelter index was attributable to higher prices for lodging away from home. Higher prices for apparel, up 9.9 percent and education and communication, up 2.5 percent also contributed to the increase.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.9 percent, with higher shelter costs being the main driver of the increase, up 2.8 percent. Within shelter, higher costs for owners' equivalent rent of residences, up 2.1 percent, led the increase. Higher recreation and other goods and services prices up 5.4 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively, also contributed to the overall increase.

## **CPI-W**

In September, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 267.760. The CPI-W was up 1.0 percent over two months and increased 2.8 percent over the year.

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**The November 2017 Consumer Price Index for Boston-Brockton-Nashua is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018**

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index. As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm).

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.








































The index measures price change from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf>.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, Bristol, Hampden, and Worcester Counties in Massachusetts; Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire; York County in Maine; and Windham County in Connecticut.






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**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
All items .....		266.429		269.757	2.7	1.2	
All items (1967 = 100) .....		774.382		784.055			
Food and beverages .....		261.303		261.001	1.2	-0.1	
Food .....		262.963		262.306	1.4	-0.2	
Food at home .....		248.723	246.810	247.541	1.3	-0.5	0.3
Food away from home .....		287.624		287.974	1.5	0.1	
Alcoholic beverages .....		246.428		250.393	-1.0	1.6	
Housing .....		271.961		274.850	3.1	1.1	
Shelter .....		322.742	322.992	326.497	2.8	1.2	1.1
Rent of primary residence(1) .....		332.077	334.621	335.405	3.1	1.0	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2)(3) .....		342.436	343.070	343.957	2.1	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2)(3) .....		342.436	343.070	343.957	2.1	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities .....		263.351		266.408	7.8	1.2	
Household energy .....		219.432	219.162	222.424	8.1	1.4	1.5
Energy services(1) .....		234.878	233.409	233.521	6.1	-0.6	0.0
Electricity(1) .....		275.211	275.211	275.387	9.3	0.1	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1) .....		156.959	153.058	153.058	-2.5	-2.5	0.0
Household furnishings and operations .....		127.719		127.613	-0.3	-0.1	
Apparel .....		136.726		150.306	-3.3	9.9	
Transportation .....		185.671		189.834	3.6	2.2	
Private transportation .....		184.364		189.750	4.1	2.9	
Motor fuel .....		197.330	205.422	233.496	25.6	18.3	13.7
Gasoline (all types) .....		195.135	203.194	231.175	25.7	18.5	13.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....		188.751	196.809	224.994	26.6	19.2	14.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....		209.448	215.577	240.852	22.2	15.0	11.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....		209.025	215.801	236.953	19.5	13.4	9.8
Medical care .....		639.112		644.047	1.5	0.8	
Recreation(6) .....		124.086		122.925	5.4	-0.9	
Education and communication(6) .....		158.204		162.225	2.0	2.5	
Other goods and services .....		482.516		481.451	6.8	-0.2	
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
Commodities .....		187.885		191.837	1.8	2.1	
Commodities less food and beverages .....		149.827		155.293	2.1	3.6	
Nondurables less food and beverages .....		191.634		205.606	5.5	7.3	
Durables .....		108.997		107.696	-2.3	-1.2	
Services .....		337.491		340.224	3.2	0.8	
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less shelter .....		247.032		250.226	2.7	1.3	
All items less medical care .....		252.128		255.388	2.8	1.3	
Commodities less food .....		153.707		159.164	2.0	3.6	
Nondurables .....		225.340		232.599	3.1	3.2	
Nondurables less food .....		194.645		207.941	4.9	6.8	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Ma.-N.H.-Maine-Conn., (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		372.233		373.850	3.7	0.4	
Services less medical care services.....		316.789		319.287	3.4	0.8	
Energy .....		208.245	211.611	225.634	15.3	8.4	6.6
All items less energy .....		275.790		277.778	1.8	0.7	
All items less food and energy .....		278.833		281.279	1.9	0.9	

**Footnotes**

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.